

12 November 1969

The Director

Attached is Ted Shackley's reply to my cable alerting him to Secretary Packard's desire for a private chat on 16 November. (A copy of the outgoing cable is also attached for your reference.)

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachments

cc: General Cushman
Mr. Karamessines



Eric Chrono

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SECRET

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10 November 1969

RESTRICTED HANDLING

TO: PRIORITY SAIGON ⁻⁹⁷² CITE HEADQUARTERS

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1. 10 NOVEMBER SESSION WITH DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY
PACKARD WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO DISCUSSION OF HIS FORTHCOMING
TRIP. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, HIS PRESENT SAIGON ETA IS 1300
SUNDAY, 16 NOVEMBER. PACKARD SAID HE WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO
HAVE A LENGTHY, QUIET CONVERSATION WITH YOU ON HIS FIRST
DAY IN VIETNAM. HE WILL BE STAYING AT AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S
~~RESIDENCE~~ RESIDENCE AND HIS SCHEDULE IS PRESENTLY OPEN FROM
1700-1900 THAT FIRST DAY (SUNDAY). PACKARD SAID HE WOULD TRY
TO GET HIS IMMEDIATE POST ARRIVAL BRIEFINGS COMPRESSED
ENOUGH TO ENABLE HIM TO MEET YOU AROUND 1630 SO THE TWO OF
YOU COULD HAVE AN UNINTERRUPTED TWO AND A HALF HOURS
TOGETHER.

2. PACKARD'S PRIMARY COMMISSION FROM SECRETARY LAIRD
IS TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS IN AND REALISTIC PROSPECTS FOR
VIETNAMIZATION. HE BELIEVES HIS MACV BRIEFINGS WILL BE
HEAVILY WEIGHTED ON THE MILITARY SIDE AND HENCE WANTS TO TALK
TO YOU EARLY IN THE GAME TO BE SURE HE GETS THE NECESSARY
BALANCE ON THE NON-MILITARY SIDE. HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS

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WITH YOU THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF CURRENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, PROSPECTS AND LIKELY POLITICAL IMPACT OF LAND REFORM LEGISLATION, THE STATE OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN SAIGON, AND THE WHOLE MATTER OF PHOENIX AND THE PRU'S. HE ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LOOKING OVER HIS SCHEDULE WITH HIM AND OFFERING ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ON ADDITIONAL, OR OTHER, PLACES, PROGRAMS OR PEOPLE HE SHOULD SEE.

3. PACKARD WAS NOT SURE WHERE WOULD BE THE BEST PLACE FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO MEET AND ALSO SEEMED UNDECIDED ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S BEING PRESENT. (HE SAID ONE OF THE THINGS HE MOST VALUED AND RESPECTED ABOUT WAS OUR CANDOR AND OBJECTIVITY AND HE DID NOT WANT YOU TO BE UNDER ANY INHIBITIONS.) I PUNTED ON THIS ONE BY SUGGESTING THE RESIDENCE AS A POSSIBLE SITE FOR YOUR CONVERSATION AND SUGGESTING THAT HE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION THE FINAL CHOICE OF SITE AND THE FORM OR MANNER OF ANY INVITATION TENDERED TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER TO SIT IN ON ALL OR PART OF YOUR CONVERSATION. I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT A CABLE HAS GONE FROM PACKARD'S OFFICE TO ABRAMS SAYING THAT HE WANTS THE TIME FROM 1630 TO 1930 ^{on Sunday} SET ASIDE FOR A MEETING WITH THE CAS STATION CHIEF AT A SITE OF YOUR SELECTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MECHANICS AND DETAILS OF PACKARD'S VISIT ARE BEING HANDLED DIRECTLY OUT OF ABRAMS' OFFICE.

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George A. Carver, Jr.
O/DCI/SAVA
Releasing Officer

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HEADQUARTERS

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1. APPRECIATE REF ALERT NOTICE FOR IT ALLOWS US TO
COMPLETE APPROPRIATE HOMEWORK IN TIMELY MANNER.

2. RE REF PARA 3 THERE NO PROBLEM WITH AMBASSADOR
BUNKER, FOR HE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO HAVE ME HAVE QUIET AND
PRIVATE TWOSOME SESSION WITH ANY DISTINGUISHED VISITOR WHO
ASKS FOR SUCH MEETING.

3. WILL CONTACT GENERAL ABRAMS OFFICE 12 NOVEMBER 69
AND IN SO DOING WILL NAIL DOWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR 16 NOVEMBER
SESSION WITH SECRETARY PACKARD.

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